# Linguistics, B.A.

## Learning Outcomes

Students will have the:

- ability to identify generalizations in language data,
- ability to apply theoretical concepts to the analysis of language,
- understanding of and ability to use scientific method,
- ability to present a valid and sound argument, and
- ability to identify the empirical shortfalls of a linguistic analysis and think creatively about alternative solutions.

Linguistics as a discipline inquires into the fundamental nature of human language. The ability to learn and speak a language is unique to humans, and language is intrinsic to the human mind, as well as integral to human society. The study of linguistics at the undergraduate level teaches students how to analyze languages, which are highly structured in ways that most people are not consciously aware of.

Undergraduate courses in the linguistics major teach a vocabulary of concepts and notation for analyzing language, and a process of analytical reasoning for applying the concepts to forms from specific languages. Students who major in linguistics achieve an informed awareness of language which has applications to many other fields, as well as preparation for continuing in linguistics and other fields which focus on language. The curriculum also provides an introduction to the kind of arguments used in scientific reasoning, using data and techniques which are perhaps more easily accessible to undergraduates than the kind used in laboratory sciences.

## Overview

Depending on their vocational goals, students planning to major in linguistics should consider pursuing their studies either through the M.A. in linguistics with a professional focus or through the Ph.D., or they should complete a second major. Appropriate companion fields include languages, anthropology, computer science, English, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, speech pathology, and elementary and secondary education.

## Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in linguistics requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 30 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

The major in linguistics prepares students to do basic language analysis in syntax-semantics (sentence patterns and their relation to meanings) and phonology (sound patterns). Elective courses in a variety of subspecialties enable students to tailor the program to their own interests.

The B.A. with a major in linguistics requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING:1003</td>
<td>English Grammar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:3001</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:3005</td>
<td>Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:3010</td>
<td>Syntactic Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:3020</td>
<td>Phonological Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course in language history, such as LING:3080</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course in an old language (classical Greek, Latin, Old English, Sanskrit)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Electives

Electives are chosen in consultation with a faculty advisor (15 s.h.), bringing the total credit in the major to 30 s.h.

## TESL Emphasis

As part of the major in linguistics, students may complete an emphasis in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL). The TESL emphasis can prepare students to teach English to nonnative speakers abroad. It also is excellent preparation for graduate work in second language acquisition. TESL emphasis students complete the requirements for the linguistics major listed above, using the following course work to partially satisfy the electives requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING:4040</td>
<td>The Structure of English</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:4050</td>
<td>Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:3030</td>
<td>Child Language-Linguistic Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:3670</td>
<td>Language Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:4010</td>
<td>Undergraduate Practicum in Teaching English as a Second Language</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:4090</td>
<td>Practical Phonetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Combined Programs

### B.A./M.A.

Undergraduate linguistics majors who plan to earn a master's degree in linguistics with a teaching English as a second language (TESL) focus have the opportunity to enroll in the Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts in linguistics degree program. Students in the B.A./M.A. program take selected graduate-level courses while they are still undergraduates and may count 12 s.h. of advanced course work toward both degrees. Once students complete the requirements for the bachelor's degree, they are granted the B.A., and they usually complete the M.A. one year later.
As part of the undergraduate major with TESL focus, B.A./M.A. students take LING:4040 The Structure of English, a course in language history, LING:3001 Introduction to Linguistics, and LING:3005 Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics.

Students substitute some graduate-level course work for typical undergraduate requirements. Instead of taking LING:3010 Syntactic Analysis to fulfill the B.A. syntax requirement, they take LING:5010 Introduction to Syntax, the first course in the mandatory two-course syntax sequence for M.A. students. Instead of taking LING:3020 Phonological Analysis to fulfill the B.A. phonology requirement, they take LING:5020 Introduction to Phonology, the first in the graduate two-course phonology sequence.

In addition, LING:4050 Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language and LING:6010 Syntactic Theory count toward both degrees and usually are taken during the senior year.

To be admitted to the program, students must be working toward an undergraduate major in linguistics, must have completed at least 80 s.h. of undergraduate course work (typically by the end of their fifth semester), and must have a g.p.a. of at least 3.50.

Career Advancement

Linguistics majors have found work teaching English as a second language overseas. Unique teaching opportunities worth exploring include those with the Peace Corps and Teach For America.

A number of companies, such as Microsoft, Xerox, Apple, Hewlett-Packard, and other high-tech firms, regularly hire employees with linguistics degrees. Opportunities also exist for government work, for example, as a special agent linguist for the FBI.

Some graduates choose to pursue advanced study in linguistics or other disciplines. Graduates with bachelor’s degrees in linguistics may be admitted to certain graduate programs without additional academic preparation, such as anthropology, English literature, world language specializations, law, library science, philosophy, psychology, and sociology.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in linguistics have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must complete the required course work for the major and must prepare an honors thesis, working in consultation with their academic advisor.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the linguistics major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Before the fifth semester begins: LING:3001 Introduction to Linguistics and one additional linguistics course

Before the seventh semester begins: three more courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: two more courses in the major

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate